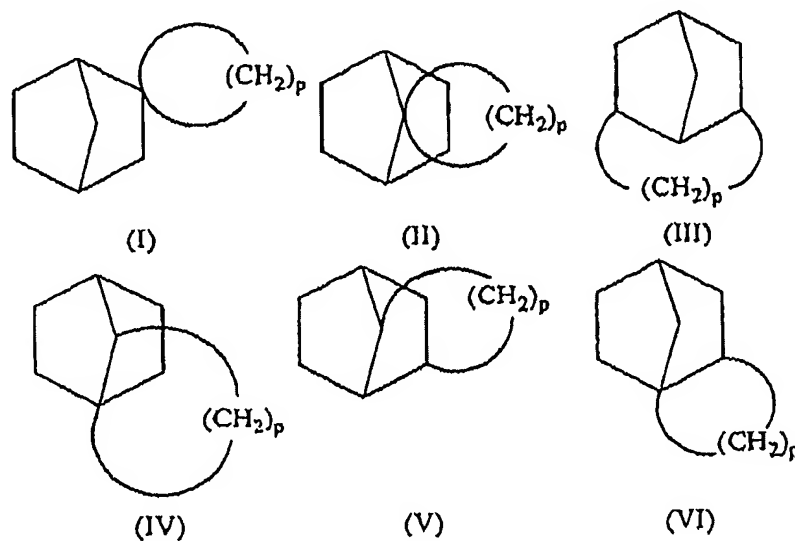


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A lube base oil, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lube base oil comprises at least one hydrocarbon compound having, as a basic skeleton, a structure represented by any of ~~the general~~ formulas (I) to (VI) shown below, and has a viscosity, at -40°C, of 40 Pa·s or lower and a viscosity index of 80 or higher

[H]



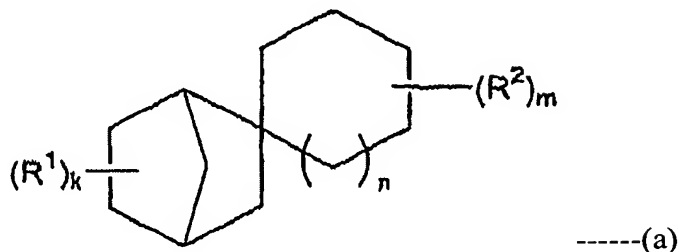
wherein p is an integer of 1 to 10 with the proviso that, in the formulas (I) and (II), p is not 1.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~A lube~~ The lube base oil as recited in claim 1, wherein the oil has ~~and having~~ a viscosity, at -40°C, of 35 Pa·s or lower.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~A lube~~ The lube base oil as recited in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the hydrocarbon compound ~~having~~ comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the ~~general~~ formula (I), and wherein the structure represented by the formula

(I) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by the following general formula (a):

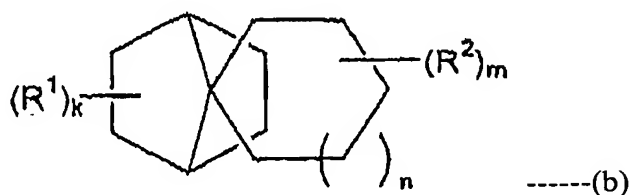
[2]



wherein k , m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that $k+m$ is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~A lube~~ The lube base oil as recited in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises having, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the ~~general~~ formula (II), and wherein the structure represented by formula (II) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by ~~the following general~~ formula (b):

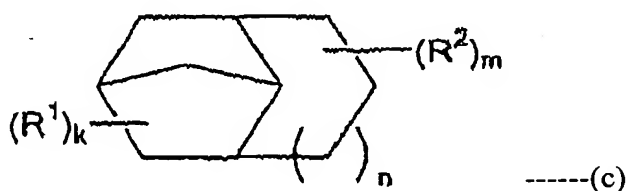
[3]



wherein k , m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that $k+m$ is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~A lube~~ The lube base oil as recited in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the hydrocarbon compound ~~having~~ comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the ~~general~~ formula (III), and wherein the structure represented by formula (III) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by ~~the following general~~ formula (c):

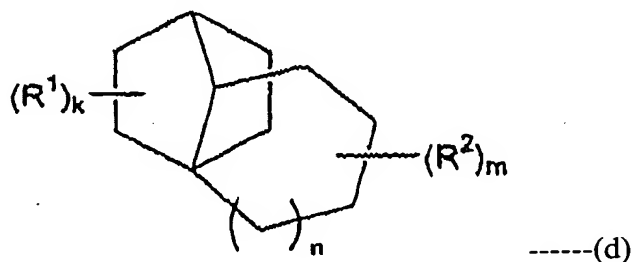
[4]



wherein k, m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that k+m is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A lube base oil as recited in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the hydrocarbon compound ~~having~~ comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the ~~general~~ formula (IV), and wherein the structure of formula (IV) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by ~~the following general~~ formula (d):

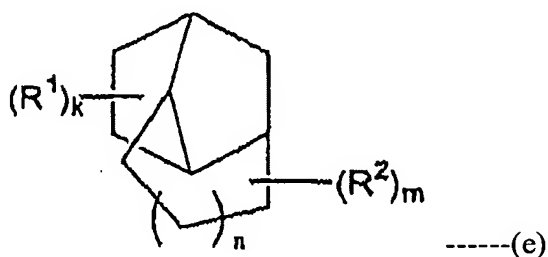
[5]



wherein k, m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that k+m is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R¹ and R² each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~A lube~~ The lube base oil as recited in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises having, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the ~~general~~ formula (V), and wherein the structure represented by formula (V) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by the ~~following general~~ formula (e):

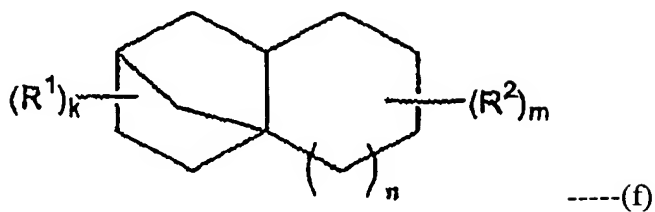
[6]



wherein k, m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that k+m is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R¹ and R² each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

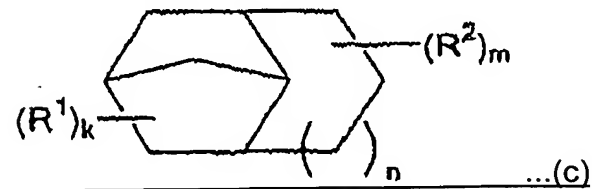
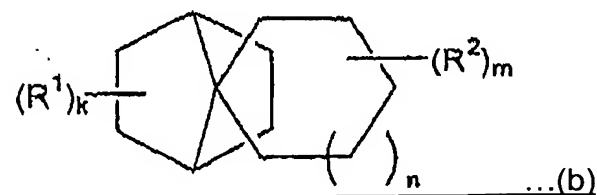
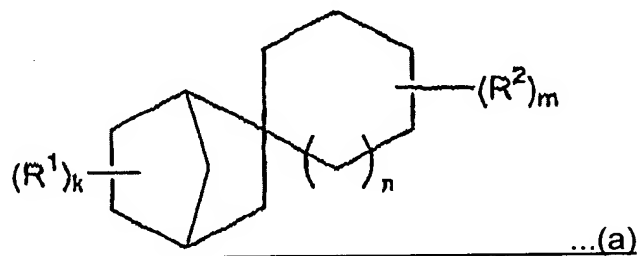
Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A lube base oil as recited in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises having, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the ~~general~~ formula (VI), and wherein the structure represented by formula (VI) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by ~~the~~ following general formula (f):

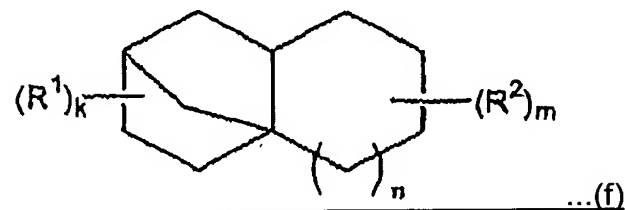
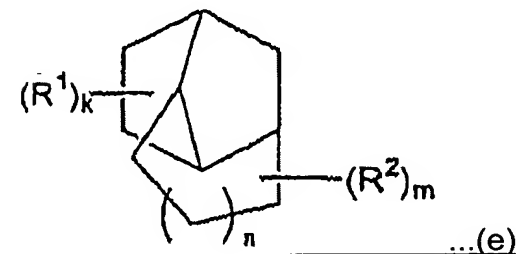
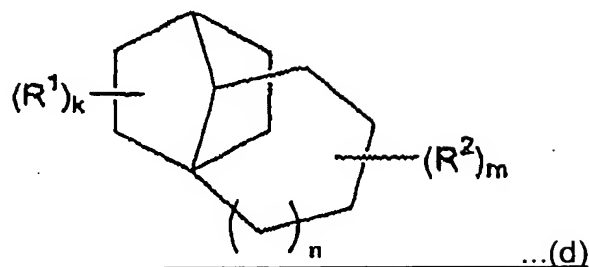
[7]



wherein k, m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that k+m is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R¹ and R² each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A ~~lubricating oil composition characterized in that the~~
~~lubricating oil composition comprises~~ comprising at least one hydrocarbon compound of any
of the ~~above general~~ formulas (a) to (f),



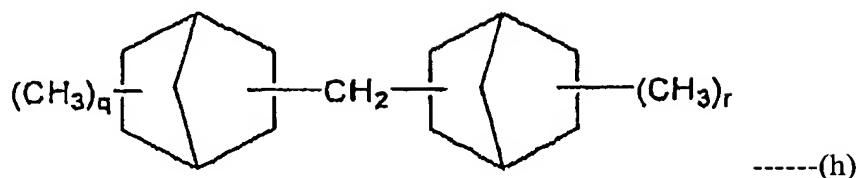


wherein in (a)-(f), k, m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that k+m is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms;

and a synthetic traction base oil which is other than said ~~compound~~ at least one hydrocarbon compound and which has an alicyclic structure, ~~and in that~~ wherein the composition has a viscosity₁ at -40°C₁ of 40 Pa·s or lower₁ and a viscosity index of 80 or higher.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~A lubricating~~ The oil composition as recited in claim 9, wherein the synthetic traction base oil having an alicyclic structure is a hydrocarbon which has 16 to 20 carbon atoms and which is represented by the ~~following general~~ formula (h):

[8]



wherein q is an integer of 1 or 2 and r is an integer of 2 or 3.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~A lubricating oil composition~~ The oil composition as recited in claim 9, wherein the synthetic traction base oil having an alicyclic structure is 2,4-dicyclohexyl-2-methylpentane.

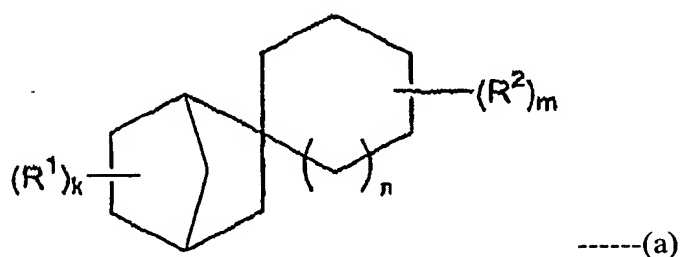
Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~A lubricating oil composition~~ The oil composition as recited in claim 9, wherein the synthetic traction base oil having an alicyclic structure is 2,3-dicyclohexyl-2,3-dimethylbutane.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~A lubricating oil composition comprising a lube base oil or a lubricating oil composition as recited in any one of claims 1 to 12, and, compounded therein, The lube base oil of claim 1, further comprising~~ at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, a viscosity index improver, a detergent dispersant, a friction reducing agent, a metal deactivator, a pour point depressant, an abrasion proof agent, an antifoaming agent and an extreme pressure agent.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A fluid for traction drive, comprising [[a]] the composition of claim 9 and at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, a viscosity index improver, a detergent dispersant, a friction reducing agent, a metal deactivator, a pour point depressant, an abrasion proof agent, an antifoaming agent and

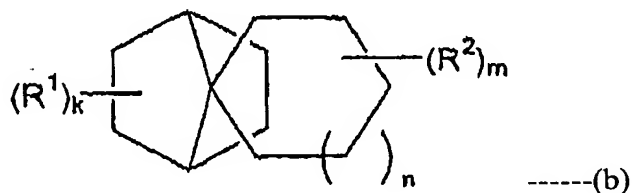
~~an extreme pressure agent lube base oil or a lubricating oil composition as recited in any one of claims 1 to 13.~~

Claim 15 (New): The lube base oil as recited in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (I), and wherein the structure represented by the formula (I) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (a):



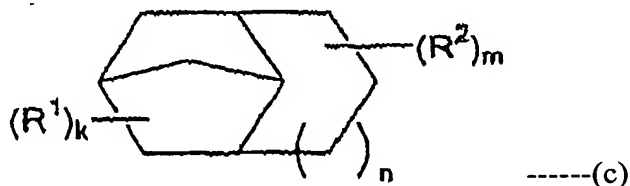
wherein k, m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that k+m is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R¹ and R² each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 16 (New): The lube base oil as recited in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (II), and wherein the structure represented by formula (II) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (b):



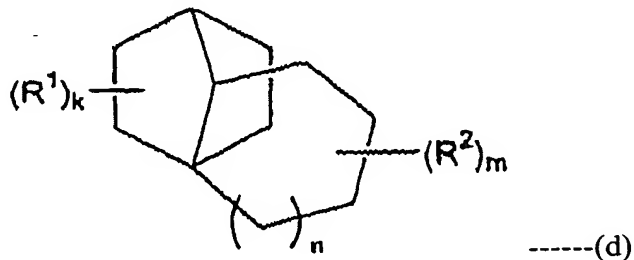
wherein k, m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that k+m is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R¹ and R² each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 17 (New): The lube base oil as recited in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (III), and wherein the structure represented by formula (III) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by the formula (c):



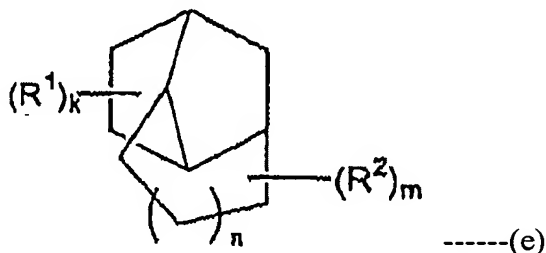
wherein k , m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that $k+m$ is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 18 (New): A lube base oil as recited in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (IV), and wherein the structure of formula (IV) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (d):



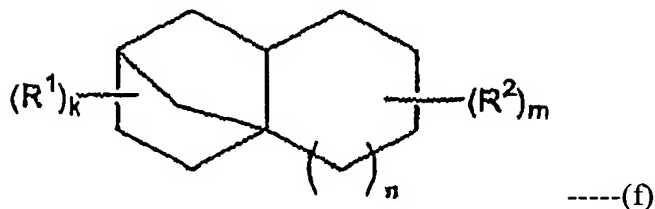
wherein k , m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that $k+m$ is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 19 (New): The lube base oil as recited in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (V), and wherein the structure represented by formula (V) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (e):



wherein k , m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that $k+m$ is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 20 (New): A lube base oil as recited in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (VI), and wherein the structure represented by formula (VI) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (f):



wherein k , m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that $k+m$ is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.